

## **Senate Resolution No. 28**

### **Introduced by Senator Wyland**

#### **Relative to Rett Syndrome Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is a childhood neurodevelopmental disorder that almost exclusively affects females. Although it is present at birth, symptoms usually do not develop until children are between six to 19 months of age; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome strikes all racial and ethnic groups, and occurs worldwide in one of every 10,000 to 23,000 female births. The International Rett Syndrome Foundation is currently aware of only 381 individuals affected with Rett syndrome in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome causes problems in brain function that are responsible for cognitive, sensory, emotional, motor, and autonomic function. These can include problems in learning, speech, sensory sensations, mood, movement, breathing, cardiac function, and even chewing, swallowing, and digestion; and

WHEREAS, Some of the first symptoms of Rett syndrome include problems with crawling or walking, diminished eye contact, and, eventually, other problems with body movement; and

WHEREAS, There is no known cure for Rett syndrome, but symptoms can be treated with medication. Also, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and hydrotherapy can prolong mobility; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome presents many challenges, but with love, therapy, and assistance, those with the syndrome can benefit from school and community activities well into their middle age and beyond. They experience a full range of emotions and show their engaging personalities as they take part in social, educational, and recreational activities at home and in the community; and

WHEREAS, We still have much to learn about Rett syndrome, but there has been promising research and there have been significant advances in diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, Californians are encouraged to support those affected by Rett syndrome, their families, and the medical professionals who provide them with quality health care; and

WHEREAS, By acting now, we can make a difference in the future for Californians afflicted by Rett syndrome and their families; and

WHEREAS, To promote greater awareness of this disorder and of the need for more study; and

WHEREAS, To increase awareness so we can help find misdiagnosed persons and provide them with an accurate diagnosis that promises longer, healthier lives; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the month of October 2010 is hereby designated Rett Syndrome Awareness Month; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 28 read and adopted by the Senate October 8, 2010.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate